

NEWS RELEASE

SIMON FRASER COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Burnaby, April 23, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Simon Fraser community council, which will give community and business leaders the opportunity to work with families to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The Simon Fraser council has a combination of individuals with developmental disabilities (more commonly known as self-advocates), parents, service providers and community members. The members represent the communities of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, New Westminister, Anmore, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.

The councils are being established across the province to ensure that communities have more meaningful involvement in how their services are delivered and outcomes are achieved for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The Simon Fraser community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Ludo Van Pelt	New Westminister	Works for North Shore Association for Mentally Handicapped and serves on BC Association for Community Living's self-advocacy caucus.
	Kathleen Pelletier	Port Coquitlam	Does contracted work for BC Hydro and Revenue Canada.
Family Members	Debra Appleby	Maple Ridge	Parent of a 12 year old son who receives support services from CLBC.
	Valerie Cook	Maple Ridge	Parent of a teenage son receiving support services from CLBC.
	Jacqueline Jordan	Maple Ridge	Parent of two children with special needs and has served on the School District #42 Inclusive Education Advisory Committee.
	Vera Anderson	Coquitlam	Parent of two adult sons with developmental disabilities and has participated in the Mayor's Committee for People with a Disability.
	Jim Wong	Burnaby	Parent of an adult son with developmental disabilities and also serves on the Special Olympic Burnaby Board.
Service Providers	Linda Weinberg	Anmore	Interim-Chair and board member of Simon Fraser Society for Community Living.
	Barbara Thomas	Port Coquitlam	Owns Pacific Coast Community Resources and is a parent of an 11 year old son with support needs.
	Richard Faucher	Burnaby	Executive Director of the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion.
Community Members	Nader Wahba	Port Coquitlam	Director of International Recruitment with Canada Trade Jobs.

	Paul McDonell	Burnaby	Chairperson of the Burnaby's Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission.
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The councils will review financial information about CLBC's budget and participate in determining how to best utilize limited resources. They will also work with CLBC managers to identify gaps, overlaps, issues and service delivery problems within the area. In addition, they will help set priorities for new or existing funding and participate in determining the impacts of financial decisions.

Each community council will act as an ambassador and a bridge to creating inclusive communities and participate in shared decision making. Together with CLBC staff and managers they will enhance the creation of safe environments, improve access to community resources and acknowledge the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities.

In addition, they will help develop and promote creative solutions which improve community access and inclusion. The councils will also identify research that will enhance our knowledge of how best to support people in community.

Community Living BC is the Crown agency responsible for providing support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia. It has a board of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as staff located throughout the province. It believes that people with developmental disabilities and their families know best when it comes to their needs, goals and planning for the future.

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